bet Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/02/22 : CIA-RDP01-01773R000100130060-4 le of lies or nearings on "Commus. I der" The last even with the thimb. ies or nearings on "Commuca." The United States Disenjoin enforcement of the is now pending. More than signed a letter stating their reasonable prospect that the old Dr. Stamler and his asso-

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this time would in no way stitutional issues nor would r a committee of the House. serious action. Like a grand t definitive, but it begins a that can lead to fine or imery least, it damages one's n it cites for contempt, the f its gravest powers against

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der." There is the old familiar assortment of dumb cops, voluptuous blondes, stuffy butlers and fast-gag men--here billed as "guest villains" -- ready to whack everybody in sight with a bladder when the jokes run

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#### Batman and Mr. Freeze

The plot is flimsy, pointless and without suspense. It exists only as a fragile framework to support the social carnage, which is considerable. Last week's installment pitted Batman against a Mr. Freeze, whose inability to survive temperatures warmer than 50 degrees below zero had naturally. bent his evil genius to diamond thievery. (Get it? He's crazy about ice.)

not last even with the thumbsucking audience. What makes it successful fun is the wholesale mayhem committed in passing upon a rich variety of American sacred cows.

### Are Heroes Foolish?

It starts with the basic assumption that the American as Hero (Batman) is a simpleminded ass. As Batman dashes about with flabby stomach bellying against his sagging union suit, he spouts a stream of heroic cliché culled from every

We are invited to believe not that the traditional American hero is absurd in the sad existential sense, but that he is simply a fool. Its treatment of and tolerating dialect comedy.

#### Crime Is Fun

Batman does not go all the way and suggest that crime does, too, pay, but it does suggest that it can be a lot of fun. The villains are never half so interested in the swag that comes from their capers as they are in the psychic gratification of making a monkey out of Batman.

Even though they invariably bite the dust before the final commercial, they have had such American Superman from Tom a good time exposing the Proj-Mix to John Wayne. The effect 4 ishness of Batman and the Boy Wonder that a little time in prison does not seem too high a cost for the fun they've had. On occasion, Batman even commits the ultimate subversion. The to burlesquing television. The to 2/8/66

perability with whom boys who were all too superable could escape the humdrum prison of teachers, parents and block bully and overcome everything with super powers,

#### Is Nothing Sacred?

By turning Batman into con- .. temporary burlesque, the producers may have left many middle-aged men feeling betrayed, but that is not too important. What is important is that they have at last hit upon a form which enables television to say that Ben Cartwright is a dolt, that Dennis really is a menace and that many of our national . conventions are ridiculous.

It may be, of course, that the producers do not realize what they have done. Let us hope their sponsors don't catch on.

# Letters to the Editor of The Times

To Extend City Area To the Editor:

The reluctance of Governor Rockefeller to provide state funds and the imminent rise either of subway fares or, city taxes brings to the fore the difficulties New York City will have in financing its transit.

With all the mediation and national attention given to the issue, the problem of transit strikes appears to be insoluble. Even if one were to have faith in the possible solutions everything from the injection of state funds into the city, a modified Heller plan for Federal funds, or deficit spending - the root problem remains unaltered: Where does New York City get additional funds to pay for increased services and wages?

Raising the taxes, anathema to both taxpayers and politicians, is one irresistible solution. For others, the Heller plan -channeling Federal funds to needy urban areas — provides the answer to the city's financial woes. But neither of these programs provides the vision to deal with this financial problem on a long-term basis.

Urban areas continue to be populated predominantly with the poor and the lower-middle class. Those who have "made a Havoc if We Withdraw it" escape to an antiseptic suburb. The effect is an increased tax burden on those who remain — the very people least equipped to cope with it.

#### Taxes Diverted

The middle-class dissatisfaction with welfare programs and civil service demands are two symptoms of a middle-class urben syndrome. Those who left the city are parasites. In many cases they earn their salaries in the city, own factories in the city, use the city transit system, but pay their taxes to a county treasury outside of New York City.

The boundary lines that protect the suburban dweller are anachronistic and meaningless political shams. Almost every sociologist in America writes about the "megalopolis" but county lines act as invisible barricades against the encroach-ments of the city.

Why should the Naskau County resident be free of New York City taxation if he uses city facilities? Is Great Nack for

lines and extending the city territory to Nassau and Westchester Counties, the city would increase its finances in a proportion larger than the number of people incorporated into the city. This segment of the population can more easily accept increased taxation since it has more money to tax.

#### Protests From Suburba

This solution to urban problems is not presented as a glib panacea. Surely suburban homeowners would mobilize every political device to their defense. Conservative politicians would mourn the loss of county lines and "democratio local government." Mothers would fear the loss of "lily-white" schools. Community leaders would admonish against urban renewal. (Can it be any worse than suburban renewai?) Notwithstanding the emotional response elicited from these arguments, counties are catalytic agents that spread the cancerous conditions of our cities. Hopefully, politicians with vision will re-alize the danger before the strangulation of New York City is complete.

HERBERT I. LONDON New York, Jan. 24, 1966

To the Editor: A United States unilateral withdrawal from Vietnam, as some Administration critics desire, would result in more havoc there rather than peace and would create a "shudder" throughout non - Communist Asia. Only the presence of United States forces can insure South Vietnam against total repression by Hanot and from being made a victim of its revenge. And only the United States can protect Laos and Thailand from the same kind of violent upheaval. Unless Communist objectives in that part of the world are moderated, it is doubtful that any workable settlement can be accomplished in Vietnam.

Negotiation must be a pri-mary objective for the United States, however, because it is the only way to stop the daily slaughters and offers the surest means of keeping this tragic and dangerous war from spreading.

But whether or not a peace conference to negotiate a settlement in Vietnam takes place, and some kind of agreement becomes possible, the American people and critics of United States foreign policy might as well resign themselves to a long period of 'turmoil, and United States presence, before an ac-commodation such as exists in Europe can be reached in Asia.

NICHOLAS T. FURLONG North Bergen, N. J. Jan. 31, 1966

#### Temple Acquisition To the Editor:

Chicago and the University of Chicago are not among the claimants for the Temple of Dendur, offered by the Egyptian Government to the United States [Times, Jan. 26]. Therefore, I feel free to comment on the issue of a suitable location for the temple. I am aware that the President may properly appoint a commission to decide this matter and the allocation of such other antiquities as may be ceded to this country by the United Arab Republic. In the current absence of such a commission I should like to offer

the opinion of a practicing Egyptologist. Various of our museums present the basic elements of ancient Egyptian tombs, but none has a temple. Yet a temple is not simply an esthetic and educaaimply an estiletic and editional asset; it is a very distinct responsibility. The responsibility embraces supervised reconstruction, projection against weather and souvenir hunters, detailed study by professionals, and harmony with existing colP 38

Nubian sandstone drinks water avidly; the temple must be kept under cover. The fact that the temple honors two brothers who were drowned centuries ago is no reason for exposing it to a Washington

summer. offered by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, but. not by other claimants to the temple. When you add to these financial responsibility - without demands upon the national budget—the offer of the Metropolitan seems to be the best in the national interest.

I sincerely trust that an advisory commission may be set up and that this commission will give genuine consideration to the Metropolitan offer. A collection already the greatest in this country is the propert.

place for a unique conument.

Joseph A. Wilson
The Oriental Institute University of Chicago Chicago, Jan. 28, 1966

#### In Praise of C.I.A. To the Editor:

I feel that your Jan. 26 editorial ["... and Supervising the C.I.A."] relative to the Central Intelligence Agency was notably lacking in your usual considered thought. Unfortunately, the security of some of our Congressional committees has been poor, although this fact is usually not broadcast to the general public.

An intelligence agency is by its very nature secret. It should not be put upon a Congressional pedestal for use as a vote-getting vehicle for irresponsible Congressmen. If The New York Times finds it necessary con stantly to write about the Cen trai intelligence Agency, why doesn't it examine the over whelming number of constructive acts performed in defense of the United States.

8. WAINWRIGHT III New York, Jan. 26, 1966

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